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Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B01F07L10

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

March 5, 1948

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Hon. John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

*Miss [REDACTED]
Thank him & send
a few names of
editors*

Dear Senator Stennis:

I am calling your attention to the enclosed article "Our Heritage"; which was published December 28, 1947, on the Editorial Page, in the Phillips County Herald, of Helena, Arkansas.

If you read between the lines, you will see that this is a diplomatic approach to the serious problem of racial segregation and to the importance of preserving the white man's heritage.

Perhaps you could send me the names and addresses of several editors who would be interested in such articles. I am enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your reply.

Thanking you, I remain

Yours very truly,

[REDACTED]

Note: Stamped, self-addressed envelope returned in letter of March 15th to Mr. Barnett.

V.M.

OUR HERITAGE

We of today are the beneficiaries of the past.

As we look back over the centuries and see how each generation has builded upon the substance and cultural attainments handed down by previous generations, we become aware of the debt that we owe our ancestors.

We have inherited a precious and munificent legacy. The language that we speak, the alphabet that we use, the code of ethics that makes living together possible, the discoveries and inventions that enable us to satisfy more of our wants, our economic system that permits the individual to produce as much as his capacity makes possible, our system of hygiene and preventive medicine that prolongs life--all contribute to our present day satisfaction.

It was not always so. Primitive man, who had to dig up roots and gather berries for a living, faced a most serious struggle to survive; a struggle against nature, against insects, against savage beasts, against hostile tribes, against adverse climatic changes. We have learned something of that struggle by the skeletons and relics left behind. We can see that many failed in their efforts to adapt themselves to their environment and so perished.

Races that could not meet the conditions of their environment have become extinct. Consider the Grimaldi man and the Cro Magnon man of 20,000 years ago, the Neanderthal man of 50,000 years ago, the Piltdown man of 150,000 or more years ago, the Heidelberg man of 300,000 years ago--all have perished in the struggle for existence. The archeologists have unearthed their skeletons

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and their relics and have written their stories.

Primitive man had first to adapt himself to his environment, or he perished. If he survived, his next step was to make over his environment, so that his struggle would not be so difficult. This modification in his environment led to a readjustment of the individual; and that readjustment to another modification in his environment, so that greater satisfaction might be secured.

The extent to which man has been able to adjust himself to his environment and then remake his environment over and over again marks his degree of progress.

Not all peoples have been equally successful in this evolutionary process, and so today we have many examples of arrested development in the various groups of primitive people who are still scattered over the earth. Their successive generations of ancestors did not go through the many stages of self improvement which led some other ethnic groups from savagery to civilization.

Only a comparatively small percentage of the world's population has attained the highest development of racial culture and economic progress. Today that culture is found at its peak in some groups of the Caucasian race.

When we consider the long, uphill, costly struggle of the many past generations that has enabled these groups of the Caucasian race to reach their present high degree of development, we will have a better appreciation of the white man's heritage; and consequently will seek to maintain that heritage intact.

[REDACTED]

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

March 15, 1948

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter of March 5th and enclosed article, "Our Heritage," which I read with interest.

In accordance with your request, attached is a list of names and addresses of several editors who might be interested in such articles.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

U. S. S.

Enclosure
jcs/vm

H. B. Sanders, Editor
The Examiner
Aberdeen, Mississippi

Lamar Sledge, Editor
Kemper County Messenger
DeKalb, Mississippi

Ned Lee, Editor
The Progress
Eupora, Mississippi

Erle Johnston, Editor
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Star Herald
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Brandon, Mississippi